

REMARKS

REGARDING THE SPECIFICATION:

Paragraph 33 has been amended to correct typographical errors relating to the dimensions of the fibers.

REGARDING THE CLAIMS:

Generally, new claims 27 to 32 have been written to include the limitations of the materials of construction of the cover sheets and the fibers according to the disclosure of paragraph 3 of the original application. By this inclusion, a distinction over the cited Anderson reference is made in that the Anderson reference (which discloses manufacturing a simulated leather laminate by the separate application of adhesive/resin and fibers) does not disclose metallic fibers or metallic cover sheets. Anderson only discloses a carrier sheet of a metal band, however, this metal band is removed after manufacture and is not a part of the layer structure. (See col. 2, lines 13-30 in Anderson).

More specifically, claims 27-29 include a composite layer including adhesive and fibers in such a way that locally varying physical properties are achieved.

Claim 30 is similar, but does not include the limitation of achieving varying physical properties of the composite layer structure.

The subject matter of claims 31 and 32 find basis in paragraph 113 of the application as originally filed and include limitations relating to fixing the fibers to at least one of the cover sheets by stitch welding.

New claim 33 recites that the material of construction of the cover sheets and the fibers thereby defining over the cited Sobolev reference which only discloses metal cover sheets. Still further, it has been recited that the mixture of fibers and adhesive is applied to predetermined areas in the form of a pattern or patterns thereby further distinguishing over the Sobolev reference which discloses edge areas that remain free of the core sheet for receiving removable inserts or internal metal joining strips (column 17, line 29-37 of Sobolev).

New claims 34-48 correspond with previous claims 10-26.

Furthermore, claim 46 has been amended with respect to the material of the cover sheets and the fibers thereby clearly differentiating over the cited Hadley reference.

New claim 49 has been submitted and is directed to the different kinds of adhesives which can be selected according to the description at paragraphs 27 and 63 of the original application.

Finally, a new claim 50 has been drafted which is directed to applying an electric and/or magnetic field for aligning the fibers, and which is described at paragraph 93 of the original application.

In summary, it is respectfully asserted that the new claims are neither anticipate nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art of record either singularly, or in any appropriate combination. Therefore a notice indicating the allowability of the new claims is respectfully solicited.

The undersigned representative requests any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1437, referencing Attorney Docket No.: 7589.207.PCUS00.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, the Examiner may directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

Date: June 10, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

/Tracy W. Druce/

Tracy W. Druce, Esq.
Reg. No. 35,493

Novak Druce + Quigg LLP
1000 Louisiana, Fifty-Third Floor
Houston, Texas 77002
(713) 571-3400
(713) 456-2836 (fax)
tracy.druce@novakdruce.com